



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION FOR PURE BRED DOGS

Founded 1964

"Promoting Responsible Dog Ownership"

Committee: House Committee on Appropriations
In Opposition to: House Bill 4898
Date: October 21, 2015

Good Morning Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Appropriations:

I am Bob Darden, dog owner and President of Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs. Founded in 1964 MAPBD has a fifty year history promoting responsible dog ownership in Michigan.

MAPBD opposes House Bill 4898 and respectfully request that this committee oppose the bill.

HB 4898 would significantly amend the Pet Shops, Dog Pounds, and Animal Shelters act. One change would redefine the term kennel, page 3 line 9. The bill defines the term "Large-scale dog breeding kennel". The term kennel is already defined in law. The size of the kennel (scale), the primary purpose of the kennel (breeding) and, the remunerative nature of the kennel (commercial) is already defined in the Dog Law of 1919, as amended.

The bill, by redefining kennel, moves the newly created entity to another set of regulations under the Michigan Administrative Code, page 4 lines 16. The standard of care, for all kennels is already regulated. Dog kennels are regulated under MDARD in the Michigan Administrative Code, Regulation No. 129. Dog Kennels.

Further, this bill gives MDARD allowance to write new regulations without legislative oversight, again, page 4 line 16. Passage of this bill would be without actually knowing what's in the bill or what will become law and the ultimate impact on the dedicated dog owner.

Over twenty years ago, due to fiscal constraints, MDARD gave dog and kennel licensing and regulatory oversight, including kennel inspections, to counties that had, an animal control officer or animal control agency. In those counties that did not have animal control, per Regulation 129 MDARD would respond to complaints and have the sheriff or chief of police act on the complaint.

In 2009, due to fiscal constraints, MDARD suspended the pet shop program and along with that discontinued issuing licenses and providing pet shop health certificates. Again, complaints filed against pet shops with MDARD would be directed to local law enforcement.

In a very cursory internet study, MAPBD found that within the last several years 195 animal control and animal protection shelters were registered with MDARD. Further study indicated at least 125 shelters were not registered with MDARD. That is a 60% registration rate.

Each year MDARD requires each shelter to file a Michigan Shelter Survey that reports on the intake and final disposition of animals. For 2014, 77% of the animal shelters registered with MDARD filed this required report. That is a 77% response of the 60% that were registered.

In summary; these comments are not a criticism of MDARD. But rather what is fact and what is practical. This bill mandates large-scale dog breeding kennel register with MDARD and come under a law that, in addition to now regulating kennels, regulates pet shops, animal control and animal protection shelters when:

1. MDARD gave kennel registration and licensing to the counties to enforce years ago
2. MDARD no longer has a pet shop program
3. MDARD has a 77% compliance rate for the 60% of the shelters that are registered